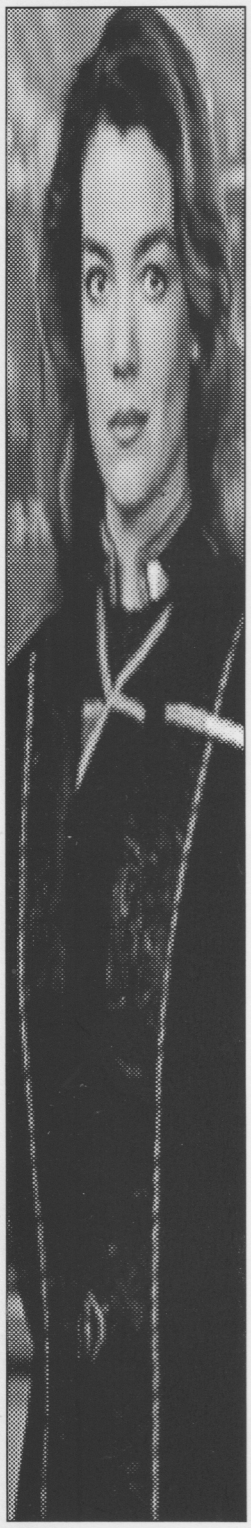
The Centaurian Sentinel™

Dedicated to J. Michael Straczynski's television series Babylon 5.

Data File 27 • November 1996 **BABYLON 5 EDITION**

CLAUDIA CHRISTIAN IS GOD!



Conducted at Babylonian Productions, CA, on January 10, 1996, by Michael Zmuda.

As if a visit to Babylonian Productions wasn't enough of an experience, a chance to interview one of BABYLON 5's actresses was as close as a B5 fan could get to nirvana. Almost immediately after arriving at the studio I was told that Claudia Christian was available to do an interview with me. I quickly put my mind in order and took a deep breath. I was guided to a room where Claudia was introduced to me. I had already rehearsed my first question for her: "Compare your first season experiences with your current ones." This is how it came out . . . "Going into your third season on BABYLON 5 how do you feel your character has changed from the pilot episode?"

Claudia Christian replied calmly, "I wasn't in the pilot." She breaks out into a hearty laugh. "STRIKE ONE!"

Oh . . . great . . . nice impression!!! She must have though my brain was made of Spoo! Maybe it was the jet-lag, maybe it was Claudia's intimidating appearance, dressed as Ivanova in her new black uniform. Whatever . . . my face must have turned a burning crimson! Visions of Lucy calling Charlie Brown a "blockhead" flashed through my mind.

Claudia continues, "From the first episode of the first season? I was much more uptight and much more militaristic then. She's [Ivanova] very highly disciplined. I was the new person, so to speak, on the block. I had much more professionalism about me."

I asked Claudia what her first impression of Ivanova was like. "I read three scripts before going on the audition. I really didn't want to do another series, frankly because I was getting more film work and already had done four series. I didn't want to play the same character for ten years.

"I read the scripts and I thought, these are really well written! I liked the character because she was strong and had intelligence. She was in the command situation . . . I love to give orders! She was very wry and I saw a little bit of an opening where the character could eventually get more sarcastic material . . . the "Ivanova is God" type of thing. I just liked her. It wasn't an arm piece role, it wasn't a fluffy role. And as time has gone by it certainly has become more substantial. I'm not bored with her – I still enjoy playing her every day."

J. Michael Straczynski has a way of writing an actor's qualities into their character's role. Claudia didn't escape this experience since she believes her real-life antics somehow rubbed off on Ivanova's character. "I've gotten a lot more humorous scenes to do – I think I've done that. I think she is more comfortable. She's developed relationships with everybody on the station and hence she becomes just like when you're in a new school and become more comfortable as the years go on. You don't walk in the first day and go (in a goofy voice), 'Hi there, I'm Claudia!' You don't have that much confidence. I think she was very young for her position, now she's grown up a little bit, feels more confident.

Claudia has also had the opportunity improvise on her character by discussing with JMS the direction that Ivanova is going in. "First season I said I was tired of parking ships, I was tired of the technobabble. 'Just give me some acting scenes!' So he wrote 'TKO', and that was good for me. The Drazi episode ['Geometry of Shadows'] . . . I asked, 'give me some humor.' I had just broken my foot, so he wrote the Drazi episode, that was the Purple or Green thing. And then I asked him for more. I said, 'come on, let me do something wacky.' So then he wrote the sex with the Lumati scene, you know the 'boom-shaka-laka' thing. Sometimes I just start to go crazy with just handing out 'Captain, I'm on my way' commands, or just things that are more formal. I occasionally need a little break, so he's pretty nice about that."

I asked her if she has a recent favorite episode. "I liked 'Divided Loyalties' simply because of the whole relationship with Talia – it's interesting closure. This season some really good ones are coming up."

Since she brought up the subject . . . I asked her how she felt about that relationship, where she finally has a love interest which only lasts for half an episode. "Andrea chose to quit. We were going to develop the relationship, we were actually going to have a relationship, but she left the show. They had to wrap it up in one episode. Because they had already touched upon it they had to quickly get rid of it.

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ATLANTIC STARCON & COMICS

Wayne and Mary Loggins put together a wonderful convention in Atlanta, November 1-3. The guests included Michael O'Hare and Michelle Scarabelli. Michelle is currently in *Alien Nations*, but I remember her more from *Airwolf*.

Convention activities opened with dinner at Planet Hollywood. If you've ever visited a Planet Hollywood, you know that it's full of all sorts of memorabilia from people in the entertainment industry. Guests and fans walked around the restaurant looking at the displays, pictures and videos.

Saturday brought the opening of a great dealer's room, display area and of course, the guest talks. Michael opened by reading some poetry from James Kavanaugh and Dylan Thomas. He then changed the pace completely by talking about working on the set, teasing Joe Straczynski about writing the show in drag in the middle of the night, and coping with 2 1/2 hours of makeup to become Valen. There were lots of questions related to his possible return to the show. Michael didn't think he'd be back, since he was now 800 years in the past. He was grateful for the opportunity to do the two-part episode though. He really enjoyed working with Bruce Boxleitner. Thought he was an extremely good guy; very professional.

As an added bonus, a few fans had the opportunity to share dinner and Sunday breakfast with the guests. For some, this was the best part of the entire convention. They had a chance to really talk with Michael and Michelle about all sorts of issues. Michael found it fascinating that people at his table had backgrounds in chemistry, architecture, and mathematics. Since it was only a few days before the Presidential election, this was also a topic of discussion.

The convention was very well organized and enjoyable. The autograph lines were long, but I find them the most fun. As people step up to get a personalized photo, Michael takes the opportunity to shake hands and find out a little about the person in front of him, answer any questions they might have and even have a photo or two taken. There were a fair number of new B5 cards being signed, along with posters. As is his practice, money raised from photo sales and autographs goes to a charity. This time it's AIDS Atlanta.

Conventions always seem to end far too soon – Atlanta was no different.

Looks like this is my last convention for 1996. Next up, LunaCon in New York followed by For the Kids 2 in Charlottesville – both in March 1997.

Sandra Bruckner

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS WITH BABYLON 5 PERSONNEL

Following are conventions that will be featuring BABYLON 5 personalities. Be aware that guest changes may occur due to last minute problems – unless a guest is confirmed to attend they may not have a commitment to appear! For a quick response to any inquiries send an SASE.

Starlog's 20th Anniversary Reunion, November 23-24, Nob Hill Masonic Center, San Francisco, CA. Peter Jurasik, Bill Mumy, and Ron Thornton are scheduled. Contact: Creation Entertainment, 411 N. Central Avenue, Suite 300, Glendale, CA 91203; 818/409-0960.

Telefantastique - Folkstone Film Festival's SF/Fantasy Weekend, November 23-24, Folkestone, England (with a trip to Calais via the Channel Tunnel on November 22). Ed Wasser is scheduled to appear. Contact: Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex, IG10 2BS; fn62@dial.pipex.com.

LosCon, November 24-26, Burbank,CA. There is a possibility that JMS will be attending.

Visions '96, November 29 – December 1, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Rosemont, IL. Claudia Christian and Richard Biggs are scheduled to appear. Contact: Visions, Highland Park, IL 60035-1202; 847/882-1174; 708/405-9461; fergus@areaplg2.corp.mot.com .

26th Annual Creation Thanksgiving Convention, November 30 – December 1, Sheraton Meadowlands Plaza Hotel. Stephen Furst is scheduled to appear on Sunday. Contact: Creation Entertainment, 411 N. Central Avenue, Suite 300, Glendale, CA 91203; 818/409-0960.

Starcon '96 December 7-8, Atlantic Community College, Mays Landing, NJ **has been postponed**! Rescheduling possibly for February 1997. Contact: Starcon, P.O. Box 1011, Pomona, NJ 08240; 609-641-3322; 609/272-9648.

Creation Con, December 7-8, Valley Forge, PA. Richard Biggs is scheduled to appear. Contact: Creation Entertainment, 411 N. Central Avenue, Suite 300, Glendale, CA 91203; 818/409-0960.

Stellar Occasions 3, December 27-29, The Harvey Hotel, Dallas, TX. Walter Koenig and Ed Wasser are scheduled to appear. Contact: Stellar Occasion, 3352 Broadway Blvd., Suite 470, Garland, TX 75043; phoenix@cyberramp.net ; http://www.cyberrampmet/~phoenix/stellar.html .

Gallifrey 8, February 14-16 1997, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA. JMS and Julie Caitlin Brown are scheduled to appear. Contact: Gallifrey, P.O. Box 3021, North Hollywood, CA 91609; galleyone@aol.com.

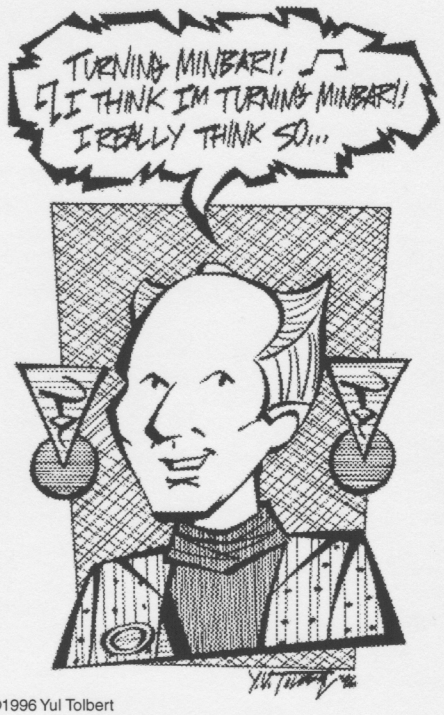
Agamemcon, February 28, March 1-2, 1997, Holiday Inn - Bristol Plaza, Costa Mesa, CA. A BABYLON 5 and science fiction convention. Guests TBA. Contact: AGAMEMCON, 24161-H Hollyoak, Laguna Hills, CA 92656; 714/643-8352; orrock@ix.netcom.com .

LunaCon '97, March 7-9, 1997, The Rye Town Hilton, Rye Brook, NY. Guests include Michael O'Hare. For more information, write to: Lunacon '97, P.O. Box 3566, New York, NY 10008-3566; lunacon@lunacon.org.; http://www.lunacon.org/lunacon/lunacon.html

SwilCon '97, March 7-9, 1996, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, USA. Ed Wasser is a guest.Contact: will@sccs.swarthmore.edu ; http://www.sccs.swarthmore.edu/~will/swillcon .

Wolf 359: The Nightwatch, March 8, 1997, The Connaught Rooms, London W2; also March 9, 1997 in Glasgow. Jeff Conaway. For information send an SAE to Wolf 359 Conventions, 141 Waarden Road, Canvey Island, Essex, SS8 9BE.

For the Kids 2, March 21-23, 1997, Sheraton Inn, Charlottesville, VA. Michael O'Hare is a guest. Contact: For the Kids 2, P.O. Box 123, Quinque, VA 22965; rws@hscmail.mccvirginia.edu .



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Editor-In-Chief/Publisher • Michael Zmuda
m.zmuda@genie.geis.com

Executive Editor • Tom Bateman
b5sentinel@aol.com

Pak'ma'ra Ambassador • Mary Besig

Senior Editor • Sandra Bruckner
sgbruckner@aol.com

Associate Editor • Dennis Bateman

Media Technowizard • Mark Marmor

Psi Cop • Stephanie Etmanski

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CLAUDIA *continued from page 1*

"I didn't have any problem about the whole lesbian issue, if that's what you are referring to. I didn't have any problem with that – I just thought that it should be very tasteful since it is also a children's show, a lot of kids watch this.

"Now *Deep Space Nine* has women kissing on it. We were trying to be more subtle. I was the first lesbian commander in space, damnit!"

JMS had implied from the beginning that B5 would have a lesbian relationship for Talia, still people were shocked when it did happen. I asked Claudia if it was a surprise for her when she found out that Ivanova was to be involved in that relationship. Claudia explained, "I told Joe I didn't want to have a boyfriend of the week. She's a career military woman – there is no way I can boss my way through the galaxy, there is no way I had a man at every port. She's too busy, she's a freakin' commander, she's 28 years old. So I said I wanted an alien or a woman . . . and I was kidding. I wanted G'Kar actually! I said an alien or a woman . . . I was kind of half joking. But he took me up on it. So I got an alien and a woman . . . I got the Lumati guy and Andrea! And now we have the potential love interest of Jason Carter [Marcus], and I don't know where it is going. It could be unrequited, because we are spars on and off the set: 'Go on, get out of my face.' A really volatile relationship."

I asked her if she had any memorable moments at the studio. "Most memorable moments. . . . I really liked working with Theodore Bikel ['TKO']. That was fun, he had great stories. That was fun for me. We've had so many upheavals. . . . Michael O'Hare leaving. Andrea leaving. I don't know, it seems that there's always some twist or turn. Jeff Conaway, who I did *Berringer's* with, all of a sudden shows up. He was my lover ten years ago on a series, so it was fun to see him again. And Bruce worked out to be wonderful. It is exciting to come to work now because everybody is so into it. Bruce has a great attitude towards the show, he's very enthusiastic. He won't take his uniform off." (laughter)

Claudia was in the process of doing the episode "Interludes and Examinations". She discussed Ivanova's future, unfortunately she didn't give out any spoilers. "Aside from traveling to Epsilon 3 . . . I will be working with some of the races whose homeworlds were destroyed in the Great War, this whole thing that we are getting into the Shadows with . . . I will be helping them. The diplomatic work has been cut down this season obviously because of our predicament, the War Consul is taking over. I think that I will be doing some out-of-station traveling."

Claudia commented on her life away from the camera – her involvement in the fandom and convention scene. "I enjoy it. I think it's an opportunity to give something back to the very loyal fan core that we have. I have absolutely very little respect for people who are on other science fiction shows that go up there for an hour, and then get in their limo and leave. I think that is bullsh*t. I stick around, I take pictures, and hold wet babies. I mean, come on . . . these people are keeping us on the air! They are the ones that track us down at 4:00 in the morning in Minnesota. They are the ones who are watching the repeats, in spite of the fact that it's always had its repeats. I think it is part of the job . . . if they pay you to go to a convention you should talk for your hour, sign, and hangout with the fans and talk with them because they are excited about it. You know you don't get the opportunity in Kentucky to see a lot of [media] people live. I enjoy it frankly. It's not just monetary, but because it gives you a high. It's a lot of work, energy sapping. By the end of the day you've shaken so many hands, held so many children, taken so many photos, everyone asks the same questions all the time, everyone wants a piece of you. But I haven't had any bad experiences. There was one fan that grabbed me at a convention but they immediately got her off of me and apologized. That's about the extent of it. Normally they are charming, very nice, intelligent people."

Claudia Christian
BABYLON 5's Commander, Susan Ivanova

At the conventions that Claudia appears at she often gets to interact with guests from other sci-fi shows. "Nan Visitor, she was great. I did a convention with her where she and Bruce Boxleitner were hosting the *Sci Fi Universe* awards. We sat next to each other signing pictures, and people were saying, 'Oh, I got to get both of you in one photo.' They were very excited. She's great, she was terrific. I really like her, she is a stand-up lady.

"I've always had a good time. I've worked with Dwight Schultz. Peter Jurasik and I did one in London that was great. All over, I really enjoy it. I've never met anybody that was really difficult, not likeable."

Teaming up with JMS to do a hilarious online roundtable session, or walking around the set of the War Room with a piece of black paper covering her front teeth, Claudia uses any opportunity available to demonstrate her humorous talent. I asked her if she would consider doing stand-up comedy after B5 finishes its five year story arc. "You mean becoming a stand-up comedian? (laughter) I don't know, but I love comedy, I really enjoy doing it. I loved doing *Hex* and other films where they can utilize what comic ability I have, if I have any. But that is really my first love.

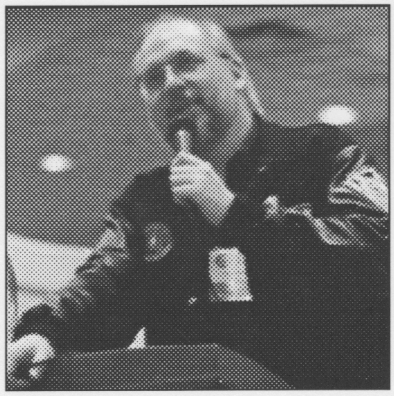
"I don't know what will happen after this five year thing. I do films during hiatus so I get a little break from the character. I just want to continue to work is about the extent of it."

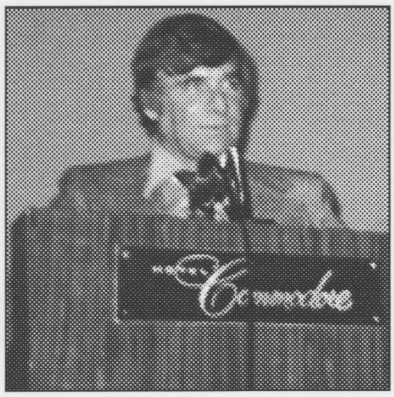
Michael Zmuda

TWO CREATORS – TWO VISIONS
THE ART OF STRACZYNSKI AND RODDENBERRY

"The Great Maker" vs. "The Great Bird of the Galaxy", two sci-fi creators of great power and talent – our own Joseph Michael Straczynski and *Star Trek's* Gene Wesley Roddenberry – men of grand future visions, both unique, and also divergent, yet with some common elements. The *Star Trek* and BABYLON 5 universes are populated with humans and aliens, but take quite different approaches to what a future might be. One more upbeat and optimistic, the other darker, more pessimistic . . . perhaps even realistic . . . yet with a silver band of hope amongst the darkness.

The most outstanding difference is that *Star Trek* is episodic, each episode stands alone complete. Whereas BABYLON 5 is a five year arc, a novel for television. This arc, and vision of J. Michael Straczynski is one of the most creative uses of TV time ever in my estimation. Thus, while each episode can be taken on its own, each is like a link in a chain of events, of development, growth and change. *Star Trek*, is more static, its characters more set. If any development occurs, it is on a lower gradient. We know more how *Star Trek's* characters will act, than we do BABYLON 5's.





J. Michael Straczynski (Chicago, 1995) and Gene Roddenberry (New York City, 1976) both created television series that stood sci-fi on its head. photos ©1996 Michael Zmuda

Straczynski, who is a self-admitted fan of the late great Roddenberry, has taken the sci-fi genre that Roddenberry created an extra step by giving his characters more fluidity of development. Kirk is Kirk and Spock is Spock, but who really are G'Kar and Londo? They are quite different now in the third season than they were in the first. Events have taken place which have altered our perceptions. That is quite a leap of faith for the viewer to take. BABYLON 5 may be more like life in this respect. Little stays the same in life.

It is the choice we make that influences how our paths in life go. That is what JMS has said, that BABYLON 5 is about choice, what we choose to do and the responsibility and consequences after the choice is made. Whereas Roddenberry's vision was one of the perfectibility of people and a message of universal brotherhood.

The question of humans and aliens coming together is also handled quite differently. More progress is seen in *Star Trek*, with interstellar crews working together in more harmony. More of the problems seem to be solved in the *Star Trek* universe, all working toward common goals. The humans themselves are seen more at peace.

In the BABYLON 5 universe, the first steps are seen being made toward the goal of all working together for a common purpose. After a terrible war, BABYLON 5 was established to further that goal. Its being neutral territory, the various races aboard are seen trying to resolve their problems, but it was not to be, at least between the Centauri and the Narn, with the Centauri's brutal takeover of the Narn homeworld. There is far more struggle seen, and sometimes the difficulties seem insurmountable. Yet, the coming Great War may yet unite all in a common struggle. Even the Earthers had to go against their own government when that government went totalitarian, and violated its own Constitution, under Clarke, who took over by assisnation. That would be tantamount to Captain Kirk and the Enterprise breaking away from an evil Starfleet and going it alone. It would be a most unlikely occurrence. Although Kirk did once go against the United Federation of Planets, but that was to save Spock's life. But, no great political agenda was seen. It was done for friendship.

Friendship is slightly more understated on BABYLON 5. Although you know they would be there for each other, there is less overt sentimentality seen.

The question of tolerance for others is important in both shows, although Star Trek is more up front about it, I would say. But, through the characters of Dr. Stephen Franklin, we see a very open, caring attitude towards all races, his being a xenobiologist. Star Treks' Dr. Leonard McCoy was of the same belief system. There seems accord on this point, although again, it is more problematical in the BABYLON 5 universe.

The contrast between the two casts of characters is quite a study in itself. The Star Trek characters were more nobly drawn, again stressing Roddenberry's belief in the perfectibility of human beings. They were more ideal, such as Mr. Spock. A more altruistic character you cannot find. Captain James T. Kirk is a man of action, and basic decency. As is our Captain John J. Sheridan. He is the Kirk of the '90s as he is willing to push it over the edge, and then haul it back again, if need be. That may be necessary as the Great War is fought. But, there isn't as close a relationship to be found on B5, as between Kirk and Spock. It is sort-of split between Sheridan, Garibaldi, Ivanova, and Delenn, various aspects of that which Kirk and Spock share. The BABYLON 5 characters are more flawed, with each their own problems to deal with, such as Garibaldi's drinking problem. Delenn seems to me, the most "perfect" of them, with a great wisdom and spirituality about her. She is rather Spock-like, as she has two races within her – by choice – not birth. Spock and Delenn could learn from each other, she about living with her duality and he about emotions and spirituality. As far as G'Kar and Londo are concerned, they have no peer in the Star Trek universe. Their dynamism and energy just comes blasting off the screen, and their scenes crackle with life. So much more could be said about all in each cast. They are all extraordinary.

Spirituality is very prominent in the BABYLON 5 universe, not quite so much in *Star Trek*. For a man of no professed belief, JMS has written a number of astonishing shows dealing with the subject, setting up metaphysical debates and questions. There is an astonishing passage he wrote and I heard on a con tape, that G'Kar reads in the last episode of the third season ["Z'ha'dum"]. It just blew me away, and brought tears to my eyes. It is as follows: "G'Quan wrote, 'There is a darkness greater than the one we fight, it is the darkness of the soul that has lost its way. Greater than the death of flesh, is the death of hope, the death of dreams. Against this peril, we can never surrender. The future is all around us, waiting in moments of transition, to be born in moments of revelation. No one knows the shape of that future, or where it will take us. We know only that it is always born in pain.'"

To me, that is one of the most stunningly profound, and true things I have ever heard. It show a great depth and insight into the human condition. I know, I have been living it. It has recently been a source of strength to me.

To return. One thing draws these programs together, they are about ideas, they stimulate thought, debate, and challenge ones mind. *Star Trek* was not blessed to have the greatest special effects in its Classic form. Things were primitive at the time, and the studio was under great budgetary restraint, caused by NBC's cheapness, they were always fighting for their lives. Where BABYLON 5 is blessed with the finest computer FX going. However, in both cases it is about story, and substance. Those are the hallmarks both series have in common. They try to say something about the human condition.

Perhaps they are also products of their times. The '60s, when Classic *Trek* appeared, was a time of great social upheaval, spurred on by the Beatles, flower power, the birth of the anti-war, gay, women's, and black liberation movements. There was a feeling of "Yes, we can do this. We can make a better world." There was a spirit of optimism. That brother (and sisterhood) could be achieved. Contrast that with these times, the '90s of BABYLON 5. Times are harder, grittier,

less secure. There are Shadows on Capitol Hill rolling back civil and human rights. It is Orwellian. Remember the Earthforce woman in "Voices of Authority", talking of rewriting the dictionary, and redefining poverty. That's a lot what's happening these days. There are Shadows of fear and hatred not too far away. So, BABYLON 5 is definitely a show of its time as well. It is presenting that reality, in a sci-fi content.

Having been a Classic *Star Trek* fan for 30 years, and now getting into BABYLON 5, I can see the brighter, lighter sets and atmosphere of *Star Trek*, its idealism, and the more perfect nature of its characters. With BABYLON 5, one sees and feels the intrigues, threats, the darker, more serious tones and textures, and one knows how high the stakes are. Yet, through it all is a vein of hope in the darkness, the transition, the revelation. Each show expresses a part of me, and my own reality. I call myself a cynical idealist, Spock within a Garibaldi exterior, with dashes of Delenn, G'Kar, Kirk, and Sheridan thrown in for good measure. A hope that the future might turn out more like Star Trek, and yet, with a great realization that there may have to be great pain, suffering, and sacrifice to finally achieve that end.

Each vision has its own depth and value. BABYLON 5 may not have been possible without *Star Trek* and Roddenberry's vision to inspire Straczynski. The sweep and scope of the two visions are extraordinary. They are both geniuses. But, and this comes from one who loves *Star Trek* very dearly, for 30 years, I believe that BABYLON 5 is just a cut above *Star Trek*, in what it is trying to say and achieve. It is taking the form one step higher. I am lucky to have been able to experience them both.

Thus, two great talents, with their tremendous gifts, have given much to their culture, extraordinary power, insight, meaning, and worth. Each with their own unique vision, giving us signposts to what our future could be. Perhaps we can take some lessons from what they have to say to us. Not to give up hope, to prepare and sacrifice for a greater good, and to hopefully one day have peace between all of the people of the earth.

A personal note: I just wanted to express for the record, my thanks to J. Michael Straczynski for creating BABYLON 5 and all his work to make it happen. It has given me, recently, comfort in a time of great personal trial, and most difficult times. I am glad it exists, and I love everyone connected with it. You are all the best.

Connie Colvin

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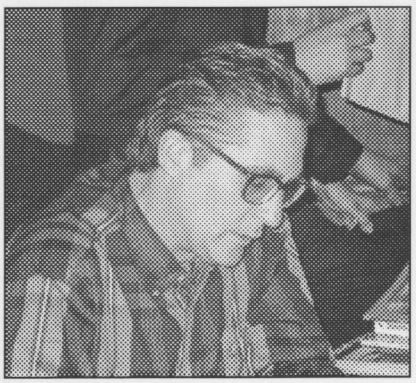
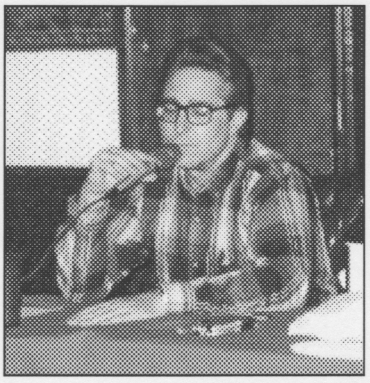
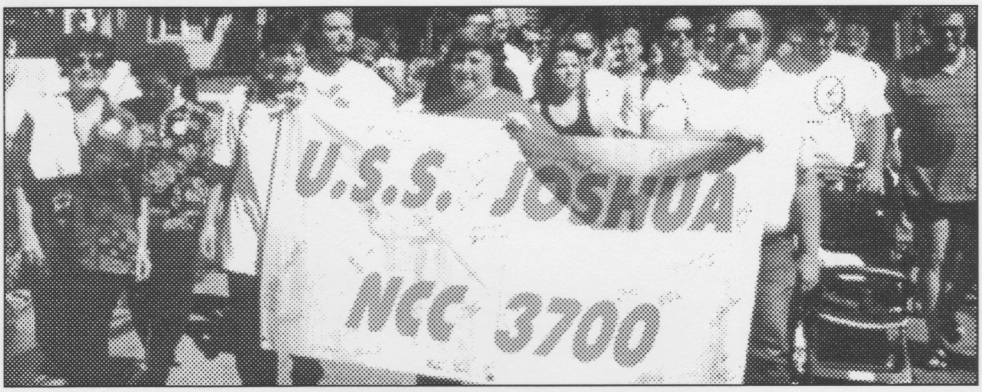
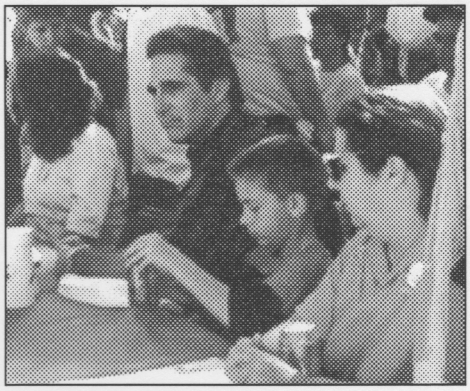








Dallas Aids LifeWalk: (top) Michael O'Hare at an autograph session; Michael at Oak Lawn Community Center with Martha Dealey (Walk organizer); Michael speaking at an autograph session; (bottom) U.S.S. Joshua participated in LifeWalk (Sandy holding sign on left of photo); signing autographs at walk.

MICHAEL O'HARE AND THE DALLAS AIDS LIFEWALK

This year I had the pleasure of taking part in the Dallas AIDS LifeWalk.

You ask yourself, what does this have to do with BABYLON 5? Well, this year, the USS Joshua, a *Star Trek* club – which also has a thriving interest in BABYLON 5 – thought they would try to generate more interest – and donations – for the walk by inviting Michael O'Hare to walk along with club members. Many of you know that Michael usually participates in the AIDS Walk New York, so he was a natural for the Dallas effort.

Michael was glad to help out and so I tagged along. We met some absolutely wonderful people from the Joshua – Gail, Bert, Gardner, John, Sue. All of them not only had their hands full with the walk, but they put in considerable time and effort to make Michael's visit a busy one.

Michael did an evening radio talk show and a TV morning show on Channel 4 to promote the Walk. There were also three autograph sessions at various locations around the Metroplex area. We visited the Oak Lawn Community Center and met Martha Dealey, organizer for the Walk. We got the VIP tour of the Center, which provides care for a wide variety of individuals. At Bryan's House, a home for AIDS children, we met the staff and Michael had a chance to play with the children. It was great and these people are simply wonderful.

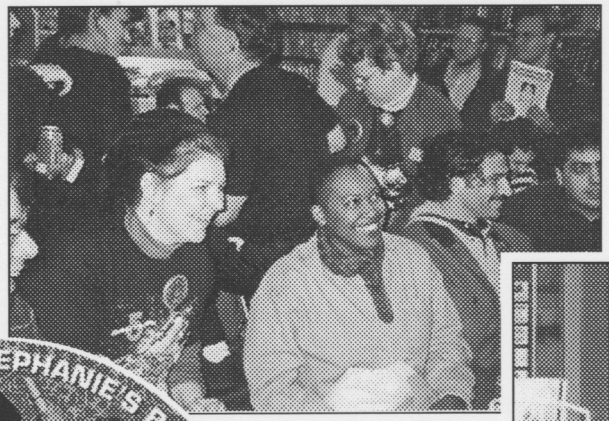
The walk, although only 5K, took us through a great section of Dallas. Over 8,000 people participated this year, double the number from last year. Merchants along the route put out water, coffee, and soft drinks as a wonderful display of community support.

Michael met with quite a few fans at the walk and during the autograph sessions. He answered questions about Sinclair and Valen, etc. I hope everyone had as much fun as we did. The best part, of course, is that we raised a fair amount of money for AIDS research. Thanks Dallas for inviting us.

Sandra Bruckner

STEPHANIE'S B5 PARTY

On Saturday, November 9, a group of Babylon 5 fans met in New York City to celebrate the premiere of BABYLON 5's fourth season. The location was Science Fiction, Mysteries & More!, a book store located in lower Manhattan. Though this event can't be considered the first time NYC area B5 fans gathered to view an episode of B5 together (Michael O'Hare visited the store to watch episodes with friends and fans on several occasions), it can be considered the first official meeting of a NYC-based B5 club.



I picked up Stephanie Etmanski on my way in to the City. Stephanie, who was dressed in fashionable Psi Cop attire, was the Guest of Honor and one of the catalysts behind the organization of this event. We loaded up the prizes that she was donating for the raffle into my Ford Ranger and headed out. While traveling through the Lincoln Tunnel Stephanie expressed her concern that nobody would show up. We arrived at the store a bit before 1:00pm, and to our surprise people were streaming in.

As each guest arrived they were given a door prize that consisted of a commemorative button and an issue of ***The Centaurian Sentinel***. Flowing drapery hanging from the ceiling made the store look like a Centauri banquet hall, complete with a Narn head on a wall. The store quickly filled, and by 1:30 all available seats were claimed by people wearing B5 costumes, t-shirts, and buttons. Guests embraced each other as they made contact with friends who only knew each other from e-mail or snail-mail messages. By 2:00 every nook was crammed with guests who were sandwiched in between volumes of Isaac Asimov and Robert Zelazny. Alan Zimmerman, the store's owner, was enthusiastic about the turnout, with the total number of attendees estimated to be close to 50!

Before the episode started candy and soda was passed out to the crowd, as Stephanie sold raffle tickets for the drawing that would take place after the show. People browsed the B5 merchandised that was available for sale in the store: licensed B5 photos; trading cards; novels; JMS's scriptwriting book.

At 2:00 a silence filled the store as "The Hour of the Wolf" began. A 42" screen television was rented for this event (courtesy of ***The Centaurian Sentinel***) . . . which was fortunate for the people stuck in the rear of the store during the show. There is nothing like watching an episode of BABYLON 5 on a big screen in a room full of B5 fans!!!

After the episode ended Stephanie started the drawing of the raffle. B5 items included a laserdisc of "The Gathering", trading cards autographed by Michael O'Hare, holographic cards from the first card set, photos autographed by various cast members, MicroMachines, magazines, books, and comic books. Autographed photos of Jason Carter seemed to be the highly coveted prizes among the females in the crowd. In addition various *Star Trek* items, including an autographed jacket, were raffled off. $120 was collected from the sale of the raffle tickets, which Stephanie will be donating to the Starlight Foundation (an organization that provides "wishes" to children with life-threatening illnesses).

Next on the schedule, for those who wanted to hang out, was a viewing of "The Gathering". Just as people got up to stretch before the video started a camera person from WWOR, the NYC area television station that shows B5, arrived to film our gathering. He awkwardly navigated through the crowd trying to get a good angle, standing on chairs and shooting over shoulders.

After the tape was over a good number of people stayed for the *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* party which centered around the premiere of the "Trials and Tribblations" episode. Special guests for this event included Diane Carey, L.A. Graf and John Ordover.

Alan couldn't get rid of the B5 die-hards as they sat through WWOR's rerun of "The Hour of the Wolf" which was shown at 8:00. He later mentioned to me that he had such a busy day that he didn't get out of bed on Sunday until 3:00pm.

Amazingly, we made it to the evening news at 10:00 . . . though the segment was only about 15 seconds long!!!

The event was a huge success, and Stephanie was such a great hostess! Everyone left at the end of their stay with a smile on their face. There was great interest in continuing the meetings every first Saturday each month. If anyone is interested in joining up you can e-mail or snail-mail me.

If you would like to contribute to the Starlight Foundation you can send your donation to: Starlight Foundation International, 12424 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1050, Los Angeles, CA 90025.

Michael Zmuda

photos ©1996 M. Zmuda

Top: A gathering of B5 fans prepare for the premiere of BABYLON 5. Above: Stephanie and Alan in the doorway of Science Fiction, Mysteries & More!

A GIFT OF LIFE

Would you like to do something special this holiday season? Would you like to give someone a Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwaanza gift that can save their life? Then pick up the phone and call the National Bone Marrow Donor Program at 1-800-MARROW-2 (1-800-627-7692) and request information about an authorized donor testing center in your area. Don't be afraid, it starts with a simple blood test. Then your name will be added to the National Marrow Registry and should you become a compatible match for someone, additional tests will be required. The procedure itself is safe and simple, and is performed at no cost to you. Will it hurt? Some. The marrow is drawn from the hipbone under anesthesia, and afterwards you may experience a little soreness which fades away quickly. It's a small price to pay for someone else's chance to live. It's private and anonymous. You are only asked that, if you initially agreed and if you are a match, not to back out. The person waiting for your marrow will be in the chemo/rad treatment, and if you change your mind, it could be fatal for them.

So, this holiday season do something special. Sign up and save a life! One person can make a difference and I hope it will be you!

Stephanie Etmanski

SCI-FI UNIVERSE AWARDS

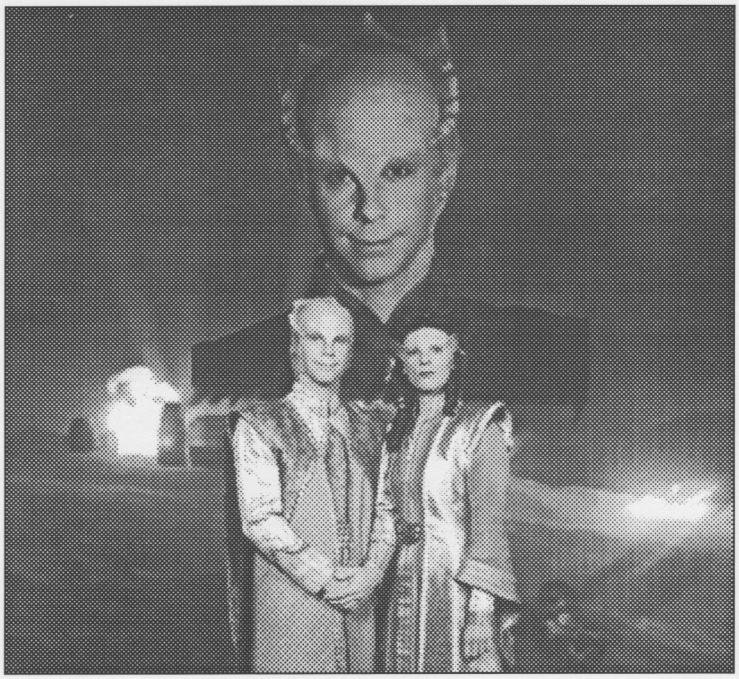
Friday, October 18, 1996
El Rey Theater, Beverly Hills, CA.

Originally this was going to be con report for World Con. However, World Con was just so horrible, I can't find enough bad things to write about it. It would take reams of paper just print the amount of profanity laden sentences I would need to describe horror that was World Con in its entirety. So instead, in our first joint effort, we bring you THE SCI-FI UNIVERSE AWARDS.

This was a formal event, held at the illustrious El Rey Theater in Beverly Hills. When I say formal, that doesn't mean a clean pair of jeans and a new BABYLON 5 t-shirt. It means a swank black velvet dress and tux kind of event designed to keep the average fanboy out on the street. It was marginally successful. We pulled up, attempted to valet park, but it was apparent they were grossly under staffed. Being smarter than the average fan, we were able to park all by ourselves, and managed to walk to the front door without tripping. Sure, we've walked before, but not in heels or a tux.

We took our place in line, where we shared the company of Tucker Smallwood of *Space: Above and Beyond*. Sadly, he did not recognize us. Upon getting to the door, Peter Jurasik cut in front of us in line. Who does he think he is? Future Emperor? Of course we were ON THE LIST. If we had used Buck as the last name, we would have been just below Boxleitner and we could have said, "oh yes, we are with him," but we didn't. However, we were escorted in by a helpful minion of the *Sci-Fi Universe* staff and shown our seats a mere few feet from the majority of the cast of BABYLON 5. So who was there, you are asking yourself, since they wouldn't just do a report on some cheesy little awards show if BABYLON 5 wasn't adequately represented. The event itself was hosted by Bruce Boxleitner and some chick from *Space: Above and Beyond*. Oh yeah, her name was
Kristen Cloke. But who cares about her? Also representing BABYLON 5 and all its glory were, JMS (because I'm too lazy to spell his name), John Copeland, Jason Carter (and his little woman), Claudia Christian (and her little woman), Peter Jurasik (and his little woman), and Pat Tallman (no little woman).

And so it began. Late, very late. It was a lot like a con masquerade except there were no overweight fans in black and gold Spandex on the stage. It was obvious the *Sci-Fi Universe* staff was still unprepared. They made feeble attempts at trying to get the crowd to sit down, but with an open bar and science fiction celebrities, it was nearly impossible. Finally, and this was only after they shut the bar down, they managed to gain some control. Bruce took the stage, with that girl in tow. Originally, Bruce was to share the hosting job with Marina Sirtis, but she bailed out in the 11th hour. They didn't even have time to re-print the programs without her name on it. So Bruce and Kristen were up on stage trying to make do with the Teleprompters. Obviously they had found some 5th grade student to write the dialogue because it wasn't funny. Fortunately for the audience, Bruce was a professional and he made it work for the most part. Unfortunately, he was the only one who could do it. Each award was presented by different actors and actresses in the genre. Each time, we got to see another professional flounder without the re-take option.



imaging by Scott Vela

The awards were presented and because we didn't have a place to keep a pen, we didn't take completely accurate notes. In other words, we don't know who presented what, but we know who won. Claudia and Jason gave an award out together, and we can only guess what it was, and no we weren't drunk. We think it was Best Actor which of course went to Bruce Boxleitner for his role in *Tron* which was carelessly missed by the Academy back in 1981. Then there was the BIG f**k-up by our close personal friends Paul Winfield and Walter Koenig. Paul, reading from the Teleprompter was to announce with Walt, the "Best Television Series" award. Paul announced *X-Files*. The *X-Files* guy steps up to the microphone to accept his award (over our shouts of "FIXED") and the editor of *Sci-Fi Universe* comes marching out and says, "No! Its BABYLON 5!" The award itself was engraved with BABYLON 5. The card in the envelope that was UNOPENED by Paul said BABYLON 5. The *X-Files* guy was promptly hurled from the stage so his eminence JMS (still too lazy) and John Copeland could take the stage and reclaim what was rightfully ours. John Copeland held aloft the card in the envelope so all could see Babylon 5 had won out over the highly touted *X-Files*. You would think this is the end, but think again. Someone at *Sci-Fi Universe* decided wouldn't it be cool if we had Pauly Shore give out the "Lifetime Achievement Award" to Sid and Marty Krofft. That same person was last seen asking, "You want fries with that?" What an idiot Pauly Shore is! An unfunny, stupid gutter mouth drunk. Anyone can get up on a stage and swear at the audience, hell I would do it for free, but Pauly Shore was beyond description. They attempted to remove him from the stage, and short of physically throwing him off, he did finally leave. What lessons can be learned from this? Don't invite Pauly Shore, EVER. Also, order of the awards presented was screwed up. They shouldn't have done all the awards then the Lifetime Achievement awards. Everyone was up and gone before Sid and Marty had finished their acceptance speech. There was nothing to keep you in your seat.

After the show, it was to be a "Mix and Mingle" event. The cool people bailed and the second string actors who really need a job stayed to try to win the favor of Dean Devlin. We did congratulate Bruce on his Best Actor award, and I didn't drool once on his tux (which is a good thing). As we were standing there, Jason Carter (and his woman) came up to us and started to talking to us, in a slightly slurred manner. I think I managed two words and that was it. It was really strange to have him come up to us, but we had that look of importance and you never know who is who in Hollywood. We could have been the third cousins of George Lucas or something.

There was an upstairs elitist area and everyone was getting really excited about the host bar. Down stairs, I almost ran over Gary Graham as he was accosting Dean Devlin for a job. Garrett Wong was getting terse over the fact that someone had mispronounced his name as Garrett Wang. There were very few *Trek* people there, but maybe that's because they didn't WIN anything! BABYLON 5 pretty much swept the floor in the television category. *Independence Day* swept the movie category. By this time we had enough of Hollywood hype so we grabbed our free stuff, made it back to the car without tripping again, and headed home. That's our story and we are sticking to it.

The Awards were: (just the important ones)

Best Actor – Some Guy named Bruce something. Something German sounding.

Best Supporting Actress – Mira Furlan

Best Supporting Actor – Peter Jurasik (park)

Best Achievement in Visual Effects for a Genre Television Series – BABYLON 5 – Accepting the award was Mr. Potato Head

Best Genre Television Series - BABYLON 5

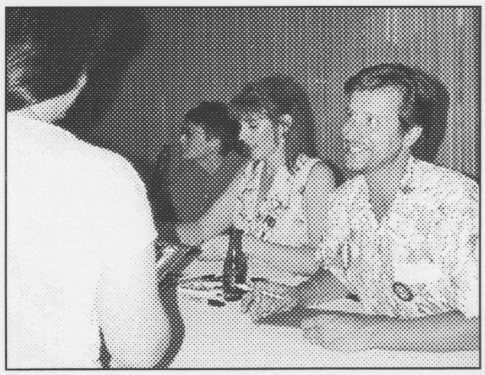
Submitted by:
Pam Buck aka B-D Banzai & **Alec Orrock**

FANTASTICON

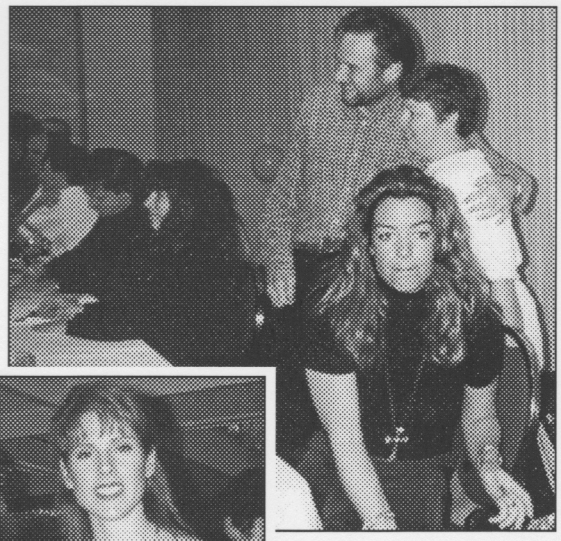
Fantasticon, Los Angeles, CA, August 2-4, 1996
BABYLON 5 Related Guests: Mira Furlan, Claudia Christian, Bill Mumy, Stephen Furst, Jeff Conaway, Pat Tallman, Julie Caitlin Brown, Jeff Willerth, Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, Walter Koenig

Fantasticon was well named, at least in some ways, for me. It was a dream I had . . . a dream because I live in Houston, TX, and figured I could never manage to get to Los Angeles, CA, for any convention . . . ever. You've heard the saying "be careful what you wish for . . . you may get it" . . . well, as a result of wining $100 at my company picnic, the kindness and enthusiasm of an e-mail BABYLON 5 friend from Berkeley, CA, Christie, whom I had never met in person, and the love and generosity of my husband, Jim, I bought my plane tickets, con tickets, and got hotel reservations in May.

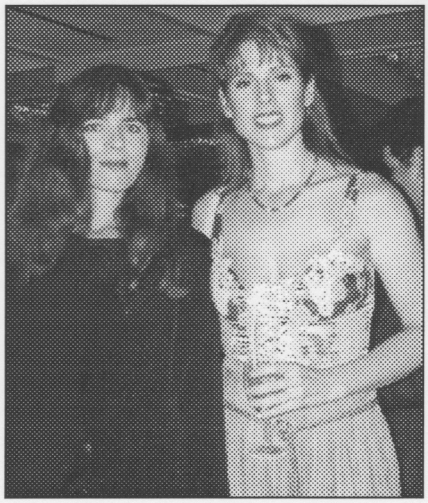
One of the main reasons I chose Fantasticon to focus my resources on was it was one of the only conventions Bruce Boxleitner was to appear at all year. I do not watch a lot of television, except sci-fi, so I had not seen Bruce before B5. Coming on board in B5's second year, as Bruce did, I watched the development of Captain John J. Sheridan with much interest. I have never given acting a second thought, but Bruce's depiction of Captain Sheridan I found to be captivating. I even felt a bit guilty having first categorized Bruce in my mind as "just another pretty face". Well, I have become not only obsessed with B5, but with wonderment about the cognitive process (or intuitive process?) involved in bringing a character to life . . . in acting, as it were, and Bruce is a master at it, IMHO. I got a brainstorm! I would try to interview Bruce for ***The Centaurian Sentinel*** with Mike Zmuda's kind encouragement. I wanted to ask Bruce how his mind works through the acting process from first reading the script to final filming . . . I would still like to ask those and other questions. After months of trying to contact Mr. Boxleitner to ask for an interview with no response, I felt I was on my way with the help of his fan club president, Darla Versilas, who forwarded my request. Unfortunately for me, Bruce is a wonderful man who puts his family first. A few days before the con, Darla informed me Bruce wouldn't be there due to a family commitment. So . . . I was flying 1500 miles to a con he wouldn't be at . . . so what!? I had never been to L.A., and had always wanted to go; I was going to see my e-mail friend, Christie, most of the B5 cast was going to be there, AND, I had tickets to the Saturday night $100-a-plate dinner! Life was truly grand!



Jeffrey Willerth and Patricia Tallman greet B5 fans at the autograph table.



all photos ©1996 Cecilia Andrew



Above: Claudia, applying the famous lipstick, with Stephen and fan, Mira, and Jeff giving autographs.

Left: Mira and Pat mingle before Saturday's dinner.

I know I arrived with a dream in my head . . . L.A . . . this is where the magic is . . . but I did love it so. Now, true, the con left a bit to be desired . . . huge empty time slots only to have *Voyager* and B5 so close together on Sunday, if you went to get B5 autographs, you had to miss the Voyager panel altogether. Or, how about the $100 I paid for the dinner Saturday night, only to peer wistfully at the table across from me where Mira sat or down the row to Bill Mumy's table? Robert Justman, Producer of the original *Star Trek* and *The Next Generation*, was the celebrity at my table, and a very kind man, but he was too far across the table to talk to, and I am a B5 fanatic, anyway. Also, since this was a con strictly for charity, many of the people listed did not show up

BABYLON 5 EPISODES

Passing Through Gethsemane (#304)

Kosh summons Susan Ivanova to a docking bay to greet an incoming Vorlon transport. A portal opens on the ship and Lyta Alexander, Babylon 5's first commercial telepath, exits. In 2257 Lyta had entered Ambassador Kosh's encounter suit in an attempt to find out what happened to him when he was poisoned upon his arrival on the station. She explains that shortly afterwards she took a transport to the boarder of the Vorlon Empire. The ship held its position for three days, beaming signals into Vorlon territory. Since no human that visited the Vorlon Homeworld lived to tell about the experience the pilot started to get nervous. He sold Lyta a life pod which had a five day supply of air, food, and water. Lyta sent a telepathic call out in every direction. On the fifth day, just before she passed out, a ship came up along side her. She awoke on the Vorlon Homeworld. Now back on Babylon 5 she is assigned to assist Kosh. Since she is still considered a rogue telepath she must hide from Psi Corps.

Brother Edward, one of the Monks who are living on B5, finishes discussing business with a woman. As he stands up a black rose falls from his bag. He doesn't remember putting it in there.

After examining Lyta, Stephen Franklin finds that her health has improved incredibly since he last examined her, chronic problems are gone.

Brother Edward enters his quarters to find "Death Walks Among You" painted in blood on the wall. He summons Michael Garibaldi, but when they return to the room there is no visible evidence of the message.

While on Brown 17, Brother Edward hears a woman screaming before he comes across the message, again scrawled on a wall in blood. Voices start taunting him: "Charlie, you killed her." In a delirious state he appears to be running through water before stumbling upon a dead woman with a black rose in her mouth. He mentally flashes to an image of himself, clipping a black rose.

Brother Theo gives Brother Edward his last rites, forgiving him for sins which he committed in his "previous life".

Later, he explains to Brother Theo that he is having memories of things he never did, or thought of doing. Brother Theo tells him to leave it alone.

After Brother Theo leaves he asks the computer to cross-analyze the bloody message, a black rose, a murder of a woman on Earth, and the name Charlie. The computer responds that the search would take at least four hours to complete.

Garibaldi finds out the results of the search just about the same time

B5 cast members on stage: (left to right) Bill Mumy, Claudia Christian, Jeff Conaway, Julie Caitlin Brown, Stephen Furst, Mira Furlan, Patricia Tallman, Jeffrey Willerth.

to the panels they were supposed to. Lastly, was the time stolen from the B5 panel when Majel Barrett-Roddenberry was presented with her lifetime achievement award during their panel. Since the whole rest of the weekend had been *Star Trek* panels, it seemed rude to me to have interrupted our B5 panel for that. She also pitched a new series by showing a video!! Of course, the B5 cast were gracious, but I did not feel nearly so kind.

Still, the con was a great experience overall. I had some wonderful conversations not only with fellow fans from all over the U.S. and the world, but with Pat Tallman (Lyta Alexander) and Julie Caitlin Brown (Na'Toth) during the con that day! They were great, and Julie even gave me my first interview (yes, I hope for more sometime, somewhere . . . are you listening, Bruce?) and that night, she asked Mira to allow a photo at the dinner. I also managed to get up my courage and approach Bill Mumy when I spotted him alone before the dinner and admit that I was B5 obsessive. He was so gracious and humble while displaying his quick wit and noting my B5 obsession was probably curable . . . . I had to observe it was more likely terminal. ;>) His kindness was further evidenced that evening as he conscientiously checked on Mira. Meeting Mira was interesting . . . she is so shy, she brought out all my shyness too . . . I was completely tongue-tied both times I spoke to her . . . very weird.

On Sunday more B5 kindness was evidenced, this time by Claudia Christian. A fan said she had a friend who was too sick to attend and had sent a clean white handkerchief with her hoping Claudia would kiss it with her wonderful lipstick we're used to seeing, and sign her autograph. The only problem . . . Claudia wasn't wearing any lipstick! She borrowed some from a fan, though, and did kiss and autograph the handkerchief. I know some fan treasures it at this very moment. I also met Jeff Willerth, the man in the Kosh suit, who is not only good looking, but was generous enough to allow a photo along with his autograph. All the B5 cast, Claudia, Stephen Furst, Mira, Jeff Conaway, and Bill Mumy, were gracious and generous in signing anything and everything. Jeff Conaway was at the end of the line and the con people were trying to rush me through so the rest of the long line could get autographs, but I had hoped for a photo with Jeff. He was so considerate that he made them stop and let my friend take the photo of us. He even asked where I was from and took a moment to speak to me individually. After 3 days of dealing with *Star Trek* "stars" including Walter Koenig, who wouldn't address a Bester photo to me after I had waited 2 hours for an autograph, saying he was only personalizing the Chekov photo he was selling . . . I can't tell you how wonderful it was being treated like a real person by all the B5 cast. Even though I know we fans were a bit overwhelming en masse, they were all kind, generous, and gracious to us. They have won my respect to go along with my admiration.

After an interesting con experience, Christie and I spent Monday sight seeing. We went to Venice Beach (my personal favorite), Rodeo Drive, Sunset Blvd., Mulholland Dr., Santa Monica, et al, and had the most beautiful, sunny day I have spent in years. I LOVE L.A.! B>)

Cecilia Andrew

Cecilia and Jeff Conaway (above left), Christie and Julie Caitlin Brown (above).

Brother Edward does. He reports to John Sheridan that on April 3, 2251, at Earth Colony 3 in the Orion System, a Charles Dexter was on trail for killing nine people, his sentence was "Death of Personality." The face of the "Black Rose Killer" shown on the screen is that of Brother Edward. When the trial was over he was given a mindwipe which replaced his criminal personality with a productive one. After being transferred to a facility he supposedly died in a fire – actually he was transferred to a monastery where he trained to become a monk.

In a discussion with Brother Theo Brother Edward feels that the sins of his former life must be atoned for . . . sins that he can't remember.

Garibaldi reports to Sheridan and Ivanova. Brother Edward's bag, which he had lost in his delirious state on Brown 17, was found at the Bazaar area. A recorder that Brother Edward used to record an interview with Delenn was still in the bag. Apparently the recorder was on while he was being haunted in the hallway – voices could be heard in the background. Garibaldi figures that the public address system was used, he also reports that traces of a chemical, whose pigments disappear after a short time, were found on the wall.

They figure that only a telepath would have been able to break a mindwipe. It must have been planned by someone who knew his previous identity and wanted revenge on him.

A group of humans enter Brother Edward's room, claiming to be relatives of the women that he killed. They explain that his mindwipe was removed so that he would remember the murders he committed before he was "sent to hell."

It is believed that an alien telepath was used to perform the mindwipe reversal on Brother Edward since it is illegal for a Psi Corp member to do so. Brother Edward had mentioned that a Centauri had bumped into him as he left the lift on Brown 17. Sheridan interrogates the Centauri, who proves to be a telepath. The Centauri will not give the source of who had him reverse the mindwipe. Lyta enters the room and performs a scan on him to find out who is responsible. She finds out before he passes out.

Brother Edward is found tied to a crucifix in an unconscious state. Before he dies he says that he knew that they were coming for him. Like Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemine, he had the chance to run, but had courage not to, and faced his fate. He is given his last rites.

At a later time, the man who was responsible for killing Brother Edward enters a room with Brother Theo. Sheridan is told that "Brother Malcom", now dressed as a monk, has arrived on B5 to help them.

Lyta is in Kosh's quarters, breathing through a pair of gills on her neck. Streams of light flow from her face and enter Kosh's unhelmeted encounter suit as she melds with him.

Written by J. Michael Straczynski, produced by John Copeland, directed by Adam Nimoy, edited by Skip Robinson, with John C. Flinn III as Director of Photography. Starring Brad Dourif - Brother Edward, Louis Turenne - Brother Theo, Robert Keith - Malcom, Lynn Blades - New Ancor #2, Natalie Brunt - Business Person, Mark Folger - Centauri, Steven Gonzales - News Ancor #1.

summary by **Michael Zmuda**

B5 received awards in five categories at *Sci-Fi Universe's* annual award ceremony: "Best Genre Television Series, Telefilm, or Miniseries"; "Best Actor in a Genre Television Series" – Bruce Boxleitner; "Best Supporting Actor in a Genre Television Series" – Peter Jurasik; "Best Supporting Actress in a Genre Televison Series" – Mira Furlan; "Best Special Effects for a Genre Televison Series". Congratulations to all!

The following day B5 was presented with the "Visions of the Future" award from the Space Frontier Foundation.

Congratulations to Peter Jurasik and his wife on the arrival of their son, Benjamin, on November 1!

More B5 episode titles: #409 – "Atonement"; #410 – Racing Mars"; #411 – Lines of Communication".

According to an article that appeared in a recent issue of *Newsweek* B5 has now replaced *Star Trek* as the TV series of choice at NASA.

Antioch Publishing Co. will release 9 differnet bookmarks, bookplates, a blank journal, and 4 wallet I.D. cards in early 1997. **Mykl**

EPISODE SCHEDULE For United States: (R=repeat)

Week Of	Prod#	Title
11/25	404	Falling Toward Apotheosis
12/02	318R	Walkabout
12/09	320R	And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place
12/16	321R	Shadow Dancing
12/23	322R	Z'ha'dum

WINNERS OF THE CENTAURIAN SENTINEL'S SECOND ANNIVERSARY TRIVIA CONTEST

Jackie Gilmore, Olmstead Falls, OH, First Prize Winner – received a copy of *The Official Babylon 5 Collector's Magazine*, signed by J. Michael Straczynski, Peter Jurasik, Andreas Katsulas, Bruce Boxleitner, Mira Furlan, Claudia Christian, Jerry Doyle, Patricia Tallman, Bill Mumy, Adam "Mojo" Lebowitz, and John Teska.

Karen Eddings, Webb City, MO, Second Prize Winner – received a copy of *The Official Babylon 5 Collector's Magazine*, signed by J. Michael Straczynski.

Tracy S. Krueger, Venice, FL, Third Prize Winner – received a black and white photo of Lennier and Delenn signed by Bill Mumy.

Answers to Trivia Questions: (correct answers are in bold)

1. What is the location on Mars that the Psi Corp uses as a secret intelligence and training facility?

   Syria Planium is the site of the classified Psi Corp operation on Mars.

2. What level telepaths are Psi Cops?

   Most telepaths have a P1 to P11 ratings, but to qualify as a Psi Cop you must have a **P12** rating.

3. How many Minbari are on the Gray Council?

   The Grey Council consists of **nine** Minbari: three from the religious caste; three from the warrior caste; and three from the worker caste.

4. Which major alien race are marsupials?

   The Narn are marsupials that have the ability to hibernate.

5. Where did Jeffrey Sinclair first meet Michael Garibaldi?

   Jeffrey Sinclair first met Michael Garibaldi at **Mars Colony** (or **Mars**) where Michael was running a shuttle transport service.

6. What is a Vortex Generator?

   A Vortex Generator, also known as a **Jumpgate**, is a construction in space which creates jumpoints to hyperspace.

7. What is the name of the planet that Babylon 5 orbits?

   Epsilon 3, also known as **Euphrates**, is the planet that Babylon 5 orbits.

8. Which of the previous four Babylon stations exploded?

   Babylon 1's infrastructure collapsed during construction, Babylon 2 was sabotaged during construction and was abandoned, **Babylon 3** was damaged by an explosion during construction, Babylon 4 disappeared without a trace.

9. When do we first hear Jeffrey Slnclair quote Tennyson, "To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield"?

   Jeffrey Sinclair first quotes Lord Alfred Tennyson's "Ulysses" in a scene in **"The Gathering"** (B5's pilot) that takes place in the Zen Garden where he explains to Delenn why humans were so persistent in completing a Babylon station.

10. How many miles long is Babylon 5?

    Babylon 5 is **5 miles long**.

11. What does PPG stand for?

    A PPG, which stands for **Phased Plasma Gun**, is a standard EarthForce weapon that is powered by removable energy caps and fires super-heated gas known as plasma. Note: some references include **Phased Plaser Gun**.

12. Which level of Babylon 5 is the ambassadorial level?

    Babylon 5's different sectors are labeled by color, each sector containing several levels. The Ambassadorial wing is in the **Green sector** on **Level 2**.

13. In what sector of space does Babylon 4 reappear in?

    In 2254 Babylon 4 disappeared in **Sector 14**, reappearing in the same spot four years later.

14. What is John Sheridan's Minbari nickname?

    The Minbari nicknamed John Sheridan **Starkiller** during the Earth-Minbari War after he destroyed the Minbari Warcrusier, the Black Star, along with three heavy cruisers by luring them into a mined asteroid field between Mars and Jupiter.

15. What is the oldest symbol of Centauri nobility?

    The oldest symbol of Centauri nobility and power is **the Eye**, which belonged to the first Centauri emperor.

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